

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144594
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SUBJECT: CBC OPPOSITION TO US ZAIRIAN INVOLVEMENT

THE NEW YORK TIMES OF JUNE 7 REPORTS THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS IS URGING THE USG TO AVOID BROADENING
INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE. PORTIONS OF THE AP-BASED STORY
FOLLOW:

QUOTE THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TODAY URGED THAT
THE UNITED STATES AVOID TURNING THE WAR IN ZAIRE INTO A
TEST OF STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

REPRESENTATIVE PARREN J. MITCHELL, DEMOCRAT OF MARYLAND,
THE CAUCUS CHAIRMAN, SAID SOVIET OR CUBAN INVOLVEMENT
IN ZAIRE OR ANY OTHER AFRICAN NATION "IS AN INTERNAL
POSITION FOR THE VARIOUS AFRICAN STATES TO RESOLVE."

THE CAUCUS OPPOSED CREATION OF ANY EUROPEAN-SPONSORED
MILITARY FORCE IN AFRICA UNLESS IT WAS FORMED AT THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 144594

REQUEST OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. THERE IS A
DANGER OF CREATING A NEW VIETNAM-LIKE SITUATION IF THE
UNITED STATES BROADENS ITS INVOLVEMENT. MR. MITCHELL SAID.

THE CAUCUS SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES
SHOULD BEWARE OF OVERREACTING TO ZAIRE'S PROBLEMS
BECAUSE MANY FACTORS UNRELATED TO EITHER THE UNITED

STATES OR THE SOVIET UNION HELPED CREATE THOSE PROBLEMS.
THE STATEMENT SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT
BE MAKING AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT OUT OF A REGIONAL
DISPUTE.

"LIKE ALL OTHER NATIONS, AFRICAN NATIONS ARE ENTITLED
TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN PROBLEMS CALLING ON WHOM THEY
WISH FOR HELP," MR. MITCHELL SAID.

THE CAUCUS OPPOSED THE USE OF UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT
TO AIRLIFT MOROCCAN TROOPS INTO ZAIRE TO HELP KEEP
THE PEACE.

"IT CERTAINLY SUGGESTS TO ME THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING
SO INVOLVED AND ENMESHED IN AFRICAN NATIONS THAT THERE
MIGHT BE FURTHER STEPS BY OTHER NATIONS WHICH WOULD
PRESENT US WITH A SITUATION COMPARABLE TO THE ONE WE HAD
IN VIETNAM," MR. MITCHELL SAID. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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